# EXHIBIT A

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

NORMA HUNTER AND	§	
BRENDA JONES,	§	
	<b>§</b>	
${\it Plaintiffs},$	§	
	§	
v.	§	CIVIL CASE NO. 1:21-cv-00876
	§	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., AND	§	
SPIRO PEREYO	§	
	§	
Defendants.	§	

## DEFENDANT LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC.'S

(incorrectly named and an improper party)

#### INDEX OF MATTERS BEING FILED

Defendants, Lowe's Companies, Inc. ("Defendants"), file this Index of Matters Being Filed pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 81, as follows:

#### Exhibit 1: All Executed Process:

• Affidavit of Service as to Lowe's Companies, Inc. dated August 31, 2021

### Exhibit 2: All State Court Pleadings:

- Plaintiffs' Original Petition filed August 10, 2021
- Defendant Lowe's Companies, Inc.'s Original Answer filed September 27, 2021

### Exhibit 3: State Court Docket Sheet

Exhibit 4: List of all counsel of record, including addresses, telephone numbers, and parties represented.

# EXHIBIT 1

(Executed Service of Process)

### Case 1:21-cv-00876-RP Document 1-1 Filed 09/30/21 Page 4 of 31

CITATION

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-21-003847

NORMA HUNTER AND BRENDA JONES

. Plaintiff

LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., AND SPIRO PEREYO,

. Defendant

TO:

LOWES COMPANIES INC

BY SERVING ITS REGISTERED AGENT CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY

D/B/A CSC-LAWYERS INCORPORATIONG SERVICE COMPANY

211 E 7<sup>™</sup> STREET, STE 620 **AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3218** 

Defendant, in the above styled and numbered cause:

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

Attached is a copy of the PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION of the PLAINTIFF in the above styled and numbered cause, which was filed on AUGUST 10, 2021 in the 419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT of Travis County, Austin, Texas.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at office, August 17, 2021,

REQUESTED BY:

MARK BRADLEY BLACKBURN 6618 SITIO DEL RIO BLVD STE C101

AUSTIN, TX 78730-1147

BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 684-8900 FAX: (512) 684-8920



PREPARED BY: RODRIGUEZ ALEXUS X

Came to hand on the 31 day of AUG. ,2821 at	o'clock A M., and executed at
within the C	ounty ofon the 31_ day of
AUG , 2321, ato'clockM.,	
by delivering to the within named	, each in person, a true copy of this citation
together with the PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION accompanying pleading	g, having first attached such copy of such citation to such copy of pleading
and endorsed on such copy of citation the date of delivery.	
Service Fee: \$	
	Sheriff / Constable / Authorized Person
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the	
	Ву:
day of,	
	Printed Name of Server
	County, Texas
Notary Public, THE STATE OF TEXAS	•

D-1-GN-21-003847 SERVICE FEE NOT PAID P01 - 000110044

# EXHIBIT 2

(All State Court Pleadings)



# **Notice of Service of Process**

null / ALL

Transmittal Number: 23712493 Date Processed: 09/01/2021

Primary Contact: Heather McClow

Lowe's Companies, Inc. 1000 Lowes Blvd

Mooresville, NC 28117-8520

Entity: Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Entity ID Number 2515374

Entity Served: Lowes Companies Inc

Title of Action: Norma Hunter vs. Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Matter Name/ID: Norma Hunter vs. Lowe's Companies, Inc. (11530540)

Document(s) Type:Citation/PetitionNature of Action:Personal Injury

Court/Agency: Travis County District Court, TX

Case/Reference No: D-1-GN-21-003847

Jurisdiction Served: Texas

**Date Served on CSC:** 08/31/2021

**Answer or Appearance Due:** 10:00 am Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after service

Originally Served On: CSC

How Served: Personal Service
Sender Information: Mark B. Blackburn

512-684-8900

Information contained on this transmittal form is for record keeping, notification and forwarding the attached document(s). It does not constitute a legal opinion. The recipient is responsible for interpreting the documents and taking appropriate action.

To avoid potential delay, please do not send your response to CSC

251 Little Falls Drive, Wilmington, Delaware 19808-1674 (888) 690-2882 | sop@cscglobal.com

## Case 1:21-cv-00876-RP Document 1-1 Filed 09/30/21 Page 7 of 31

CITATION

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS

CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-21-003847

NORMA HUNTER AND BRENDA JONES

. Plaintiff

VS.

LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., AND SPIRO PEREYO,

. Defendant

TO:

LOWES COMPANIES INC

BY SERVING ITS REGISTERED AGENT CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY

D/B/A CSC-LAWYERS INCORPORATIONG SERVICE COMPANY

211 E 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET, STE 620 AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701-3218

Defendant, in the above styled and numbered cause:

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgment may be taken against you. In addition to filing a written answer with the clerk, you may be required to make initial disclosures to the other parties of this suit. These disclosures generally must be made no later than 30 days after you file your answer with the clerk. Find out more at TexasLawHelp.org."

Attached is a copy of the <u>PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION</u> of the <u>PLAINTIFF</u> in the above styled and numbered cause, which was filed on <u>AUGUST 10, 2021</u> in the <u>419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT</u> of Travis County, Austin, Texas.

ISSUED AND GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND SEAL of said Court at office, August 17, 2021,

REQUESTED BY:

MARK BRADLEY BLACKBURN 6618 SITIO DEL RIO BLVD STE C101 AUSTIN, TX 78730-1147

BUSINESS PHONE: (512) 684-8900 FAX: (512) 684-8920

Velve L. Price
Travis County District Clerk
Travis County Counthouse
1000 Guadalupa, P.D. Box 679003 (78767)

PREPARED BY: RODRIGUEZ ALEXUS X

Austin TX 78701

Came to hand on the 31 day of AUG. , 2021 at 35 o'clock	A 14 and annual dat
within the County of	on the day of
AUG, , 2821, at o'clockM.,	
by delivering to the within named	, each in person, a true copy of this citation
together with the PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION accompanying pleading, having file	rst attached such copy of such citation to such copy of pleading
and endorsed on such copy of citation the date of delivery.	
Service Fee: \$	Sheriff / Constable / Authorized Person
Sworn to and subscribed before me this the	Sheriii / Gotistable / Authorized F erson
	Ву:
day of,	
	Printed Name of Server
Notary Public, THE STATE OF TEXAS	County, Texas

**D-1-GN-21-003847** SERVICE FEE NOT PAID **P01 - 000110044** 

Case 1:21-cv-00876-RP Document 1-1 Filed 09/30/21 Page 8 of 31 8/10/2021 12:20 PM

Velva L. Price **District Clerk** D-1-GN-21-003847 **Travis County** D-1-GN-21-003847 CAUSE NO. Nancy Rodrigue: NORMA HUNTER AND IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF **BRENDA JONES, Plaintiffs** TRAVIS COUNTY, TEXAS VS. LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., AND SPIRO PEREYO, 419TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### PLAINTIFFS' ORIGINAL PETITION

TO THE HONORABLE JUDGE OF SAID COURT:

COMES NOW, NORMA HUNTER and BRENDA JONES ("Plaintiffs") and file this action against LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC. and SPIRO PEREYO ("Defendants"), and allege the following:

#### 1.0 DISCOVERY CONTROL PLAN

**Defendants** 

Plaintiffs request that discovery be conducted under Tex. R. Civ. P. 190.4 (Level 3). 1.1

#### **PARTIES** 2.0

- 2.1 Plaintiff, NORMA HUNTER, resides in Austin, Travis County, Texas.
- Plaintiff, BRENDA JONES, resides in Austin, Travis County, Texas. 2.2
- 2.3 Defendant, LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., is a foreign corporation with its principal place of business at its U.S. corporate office, 1605 Curtis Bridge Rd, Wilkesboro, NC 28697, that owns, operates, and conducts business directly, and/or through its subsidiaries, and/or through assumed named entities in the State of Texas. Lowe's Companies, Inc. may be served with process

through its registered agent, Corporation Service Company D/B/A CSC-Lawyers Incorporating Service Company, 211 E. 7<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 620, Austin, TX 78701-3218.

2.3 Defendant, Spiro Pereyo a.k.a. Spiro Pereyos Dendrinos ("Defendant Pereyo"), is an individual who may be served with citation and petition at his residence located at 500 E. Anderson Lane, Apt. 177K, Austin, Travis County, TX 78752-1232.

#### 3.0 JURISDICTION & VENUE

- 3.1 Plaintiffs seek damages that are within the jurisdictional limits of the Court.

  Pursuant to Rule 47 of the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs seek monetary relief over \$1,000,000.
- 3.2 Venue is proper in Travis County, Texas, pursuant to Tex. CIV. PRAC. & REM. CODE § 15.002(a)(1) and § 15.002(a)(2) because Travis County is the county in which all or a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim made the basis of this lawsuit occurred and the county in which Defendant Pereyo, resides.

#### 4.0 FACTS

- 4.1 This is an action to recover money damages from Defendants for injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiffs, Ms. Norma Hunter and Ms. Brenda Jones, arising from a violent, commercial motor vehicle collision that occurred on or about August 13, 2019, in Austin, Travis County, Texas.
- 4.2 On that date at about 2:38 p.m., Plaintiffs were in Ms. Hunter's grey, 2014 Kia Sorento ('Kia') traveling south on Dessau Road in Austin, Travis County, Texas, approaching the intersection of Wandering Way. Dessau Road is a wide, three lane road, which generally travels north and south. The three southbound lanes and three northbound lanes at the intersection of Dessau Road and Wandering Way are divided by a narrow concrete median, and Dessau Road

expands into four lanes to include dedicated turn lanes at the intersection. The speed limit on Dessau Road in this area is 50 mph and has clear lines of sight.

- 4.3 The intersection of Dessau Road and Wandering Way includes traffic control signal lights in each direction. This includes a protected turn signal for U-turns on Dessau Road and/or for Dessau traffic turning onto Wandering Way.
- As Ms. Hunter's approached the intersection of Dessau Road and Wandering Way, she was first in line in the turn lane. The light was red, so Ms. Hunter came to a complete stop and waited patiently for the light to change. Ms. Hunter was heading home, and it was her intention to make a U-turn under a protected signal in order to travel north on Dessau Road. The protected turn light then turned green, indicating she could proceed into the intersection to perform a U-turn under a protected green turn light. After ensuring there was no oncoming traffic from the north or east, Ms. Hunter began making a U-turn to travel northbound on Dessau Road.
- 4.5 At that same time, Defendant Pereyo, was traveling westbound, in the far right lane, on Wandering Way. Defendant Pereyo was approaching the intersection of Dessau Road and westbound Wandering Way. At the intersection, Wandering Way has two westbound lanes: 1) the inner/left lane is a dedicated left turn lane onto southbound Dessau road; and 2) the outer/right lane is for thru/westbound traffic on Wandering Way, or to turn right/northbound on Dessau Road.
- 4.6 Defendant Pereyo was driving a large, white, 18-wheeled 2018 International Harvester T6 tractor-trailer, pulling a large trailer with attached forklift at the end. Defendant Pereyo was in the course and scope of his employment with Defendant Lowe's Companies, Inc. ("Lowe's"). Defendant Pereyo's massive, 18-wheeled tractor-trailer had a gross vehicle weight rating of ~ 80,000 pounds. The road surface was dry, and the lanes were straight, providing clear lines of sight from Defendant Pereyo's elevated position as he traveled this section of Wandering

Way.

- 4.7 As Ms. Hunter proceeded into her U-turn to travel northbound onto Dessau Road, Defendant Pereyo approached the Dessau Road intersection which had a red traffic light for vehicles on Wandering Way. Defendant Pereyo slowed, but he did not stop at the red light. Instead, he entered the Dessau Road/Wandering Way intersection with the intention of turning right/northbound onto Dessau Road. In doing so, he began a wide right turn onto the northbound lanes on Dessau Road. Ms. Hunter had already started her U-turn onto northbound Dessau Road as Defendant Pereyo proceeded thru his red light.
- 4.8 Despite a clear view of traffic at the intersection, Defendant Pereyo was distracted and inattentive and failed to see Ms. Hunter's Kia in northbound lanes of Dessau in front of him. In proceeding thru the red light, Defendant Pereyo then violently crashed the front driver's side of his massive, 18-wheeled tractor-trailer directly into the passenger side of the much smaller Hunter Kia (curb weight 3,594 lbs.). The extreme force from the angular 'T-bone' collision violently thrust Ms. Hunter's vehicle laterally, to her left. Likewise, the violent impact caused the hood of Defendant Pereyo's massive, 18-wheeled tractor-trailer 'fly up' as he continued his illegal turn.
- 4.9 After the initial angular 'T-bone' impact, Ms. Hunter struggled to maintain control as both she and Ms. Jones were violently thrown to their right towards the point of impact. Thankfully, she was able regain control, separate from Defendant Pereyo's massive, 18-wheeled tractor-trailer and come to a stop in northbound Dessau Road without colliding with any other objects or vehicles. Defendant Pereyo continued his illegal turn and came to a stop further down Dessau Road.
- 4.10 After both vehicles came to a stop, Defendant Pereyo did come to the Hunter vehicle to check on the occupants. He admitted he had the red light and apologized for causing the

crash.

- 4.11 The Austin Police Department arrived on scene and investigated the crash. As a result of their investigation, Officer Evan Newcomer placed sole fault on Defendants for causing the crash and Ms. Hunter and Ms. Jones' injuries, noting 'driver inattention' of Defendant Pereyo.
- 4.12 Although properly restrained, the violent impact caused both Ms. Hunter and Ms. Jones to suffer severe bodily injuries. Ms. Hunter's injuries include severe headaches, neck pain, mid back pain, lower back pain that radiates to her toes, right hip pain, right knee, and right shoulder pain that radiates to her fingertips. Ms. Jones' injuries headaches along with pain in her neck, right arm, right leg, right ankle, right hip, left shoulder, upper abdomen and lower back.
- 4.13 Defendant Pereyo's negligence, negligence per se, and gross negligence proximately caused the collision and Ms. Hunter and Ms. Jones' injuries and damages.

#### 5.0 CAUSES OF ACTION

#### THE NEGLIGENCE OF DEFENDANT PEREYO

- 5.1 Defendant Pereyo negligent and is, therefore, directly liable to Plaintiffs as a result of the following acts or omissions:
  - (a) Driver inattention;
  - (b) Driving distracted and failing to maintain a proper look out;
  - (c) Failing to yield the right of way at a red light;
  - (d) Failing to turn safely;
  - (e) Failing to take reasonable evasive action and maintain control of his vehicle to avoid a crash;
  - (f) Failing to timely apply his brakes; and
  - (g) Failing to operate a commercial motor vehicle in a manner that an ordinary and prudent person would have operated under the same or similar circumstances.

- 5.2 Had Defendant Pereyo used ordinary care or that degree of care ordinarily used by a person of ordinary prudence under the same or similar circumstances in operating a commercial motor vehicle, said resulting injuries and damages to Plaintiffs would not have occurred.
- 5.3 On August 13, 2019, Defendant Pereyo was operating the large 18-wheeled tractor-trailer in furtherance of Defendant Lowe's business interests. Defendant Pereyo was in the course and scope of his employment with Lowe's. The above-described conduct of Defendants by action or omission, and whether considered singularly or in some combination with each other proximately caused the crash and Plaintiffs to suffer personal injuries and damages that are described below.

#### **NEGLIGENCE PER SE OF DEFENDANTS PEREYO AND LOWE'S**

#### Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations

- 5.4 In addition to common law duties which Defendant Pereyo owed to others who operated motor vehicles on the public highway, he owed duties under, and were governed by, the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations ("FMCSR") and the Texas Transportation Code at all relevant times. According to the FMCSR, Defendant Pereyo was considered a motor carrier and commercial motor vehicle operator with respect to the commercial motor vehicle that Defendant Pereyo was driving at the time of this crash.
- 5.5 Defendant Pereyo violated certain provisions of the FMCSR, and such violations constitute negligence per se and such violations were a proximate cause of the crash and Plaintiff's damages. Those violations include, but are not limited to FMCSR §392.2: Failure to operate a commercial motor vehicle in accordance with the laws, ordinances, and regulations of the jurisdiction in which it is being operated. See, e.g. traffic laws below.

#### **Texas Transportation Code**

- 5.6 In connection with the crash which is the subject of this cause, Defendant Pereyo also violated certain provisions of the Texas Transportation Code. The conduct of Defendant Pereyo in this regard constituted negligence per se which was a proximate cause of the crash and Plaintiffs' damages.
  - 5.7 Those violations include, but are not limited to:
    - Texas Transportation Code §544.007(d). Traffic-Control Signals in General; An operator of a vehicle facing only a steady red signal shall stop at a clearly marked stop line. In the absence of a stop line, the operator shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection.
    - <u>Texas Transportation Code §545.103</u>. Safely Turning. An operator may not turn the vehicle to enter a private road or driveway, otherwise turn the vehicle from a direct course, or move right or left on a roadway unless movement can be made safely.
    - Texas Transportation Code §545.151. Vehicle Approaching or Entering Intersection. (f) An operator who is required by this section to stop and yield the right-of-way at an intersection to another vehicle and who is involved in a collision or interferes with other traffic at the intersection to whom right-of-way is to be given is presumed not to have yielded the right-of-way.
    - Texas Transportation Code §545.401. Reckless Driving; Offense. Texas
       Transportation Code §545.40(a) states that a person commits an offense if the
       person drives a vehicle in willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons
       or property.

5.8 Defendant Pereyo's above-described conduct, by act or omission, and whether considered singularly or in some combination, constituted negligence per se which was a proximate cause of the motor vehicle crash and the injuries and damages sustained by Plaintiffs.

#### **GROSS NEGLIGENCE**

- 5.9 As set forth above, Defendants had a duty to operate the commercial motor vehicle in a safe and reasonably prudent manner. Defendants made a conscious decision to operate the commercial motor vehicle in a reckless and distracted manner, and failed to yield the right of way to Plaintiffs resulting in a severe crash and serious injuries.
- 5.10 Defendants' act of driving distracted when viewed objectively from Defendants' standpoint at the time it occurred involved an extreme degree of risk, considering the probability and magnitude of the potential harm to others. Defendants had actual, subjective awareness of the risk, but nevertheless proceeded with a conscious indifference to the rights, safety, or welfare of others.
- 5.11 Plaintiffs' injuries and damages resulted from Defendants' gross negligence and such gross negligence was a proximate cause of the crash as well the significant injuries to Plaintiffs as defined under Chapter 41 of the Texas Civil Practice & Remedies Code.

# THE EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CORPORATE DEFENDANT LOWE'S AND DEFENDANT PEREYO

5.12 Defendant Pereyo was either an employee, agent, and/or servant of Defendant Lowe's, at the time of the violent crash made the basis of this cause of action. Moreover, at the time of the crash, Defendant Pereyo was acting in the course and scope of his employment with, and on behalf of, and in furtherance of Defendant Lowe's, in a place and manner directed by his

supervisors, performing duties to benefit Defendant Lowe's. In this regard, Defendant Pereyo was an employee of Defendant Lowe's insofar as the master-servant relationship was concerned.

#### THE VICARIOUS LIABILITY OF DEFENDANT LOWE'S

5.13 With respect to the actual damages caused by Defendant Pereyo's negligence and negligence per se, Corporate Defendant Lowe's is vicariously liable, jointly and/or severally, with respect to all such damages. This is the result of the application of the doctrine of respondent superior, as described more particularly herein.

#### THE NEGLIGENCE OF CORPORATE DEFENDANT LOWE'S

- 5.14 Furthermore, Defendant Lowe's was negligent and is therefore directly liable to Plaintiffs as a result of the following acts or omissions:
  - (a) negligent hiring with respect to Defendant Pereyo;
  - (b) negligent training with respect to Defendant Pereyo;
  - (c) negligent entrustment with respect to Defendant Pereyo; and
  - (d) negligent supervision with respect to Defendant Pereyo.
- 5.15 The above-described conduct of Defendant Lowe's by action or omission, and whether considered singularly or in some combination, constituted negligence which was a proximate cause of the crash and the damages sustained by Plaintiffs. Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of compensatory damages from Defendant Lowe's as a result of negligence that was a proximate cause of Plaintiffs' actual damages.

#### 6.0 DAMAGES

6.1 Plaintiffs, Norma Hunter and Brenda Jones, seek the following elements of damage which are within the jurisdictional limits of this Court:

- a. Medical expenses in the past;
- b. Medical expenses that, in reasonable probability, they will suffer in the future;
- c. Physical pain in the past;
- d. Physical pain that, in reasonable probability, they will suffer in the future;
- e. Mental anguish in the past;
- f. Mental anguish that, in reasonable probability, they will suffer in the future;
- g. Physical impairment in the past;
- h. Physical impairment that, in reasonable probability, they will suffer in the future;
- i. Physical disfigurement in the past;
- j. Physical disfigurement that, in reasonable probability, they will suffer in the future; and
- k. Exemplary damages.
- 6.2 The damages sought herein, exclusive of interest and costs, are within the jurisdictional limits of this court.

#### 7.0 JURY DEMAND

7.1 Plaintiffs hereby request a trial by jury, pursuant to Texas Constitution article 1, section 15.

#### 8.0 DISCOVERY – INITIAL DISCLOSURES

8.1 All parties to this lawsuit must make initial disclosures at or within 30 days after the filing of the first answer. Tex. R. Civ. P. 194. A party that is first served or otherwise joined after the

filing of the first answer must make the initial disclosures within 30 days after being served or joined, unless a different time is set by the parties' agreement or court order. *Id.* 

#### **9.0 RULE 193.7 NOTICE**

9.1 Pursuant to Rule 193.7, Texas Rules of Civil Procedure, Plaintiffs intend to rely upon the authenticity of any document that Defendants produce in discovery.

#### 10.0 PRAYER

- 10.1 WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Defendants be served with citation and after a trial herein, Plaintiffs have and recover against the Defendants the following relief:
  - a) Judgment against Defendants for all of Plaintiffs' actual damages, both general and special as described above;
  - b) Exemplary damages pursuant to Tex. Civ. Prac. & Rem. Code § 41.003;
  - c) Pre-judgment and post-judgment interest pursuant to Tex. Fin. Code Chapter 304;
  - d) Costs of court as authorized by Tex. R. Civ. P. 131; and
  - e) Such other relief to which Plaintiffs may be entitled, both general and special.

Respectfully submitted,

ERSKINE & BLACKBURN, P.L.L.C.

By: /s/Mark B. Blackburn

MARK B. BLACKBURN

State Bar No. 02388990

E-Mail: mblackburn@erskine-blackburn.com

BLAKE C. ERSKINE, JR.

State Bar No. 00786383

E-Mail: berskine@erskine-blackburn.com

JEFFERY K. WORK State Bar No. 21998700 E-Mail: <a href="mailto:jwork@erskine-blackburn.com">jwork@erskine-blackburn.com</a>

ERSKINE & BLACKBURN, P.L.L.C. 6618 Sitio del Rio Blvd., Bldg. C-101 Austin, Texas 78730 Telephone (512) 684-8900 Facsimile (512) 684-8920

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS** 

# THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE OF CENTRAL TEXAS

# IF YOU NEED A LAWYER AND DON'T KNOW ONE, THE LAWYER REFERRAL SERVICE CAN HELP

512-472-8303

866-303-8303 (toli free) www.AustinLRS.com

Weekdays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm \$20.00 for first half hour attorney consultation (free consultations for personal injury, malpractice, worker's compensation, bankruptcy, and social security disability)

This service is certified as a invyer reterral service as required by the State of Texas under Chapter 852, Occupations Code. Certificate No. 8383

# SI USTED NECESITA EL CONSEJO DE UN ABOGADO Y NO CONOCE A NINGUNO PUEDE LLAMAR A LA REFERENCIA DE ABOGADOS

512-472-8303

866-303-8303 (Ilame gratis) www.AustinLRS.com

Abierto de lunes a viernes de 8:00 am-4:30 pm \$20:00 por la primera media hora de consulta con un abogado (la consulta es gratis si se trata de daño personal, negligencia, Indemnización al trabajador, bancarrota o por Incapacidad del Seguro Social)

This service is certified as a lawyer referral service as required by the State of Texas under Chapter 952, Occupations Code. Certificato No. 9303

#### CAUSE NO. D-1-GN-21-003847

NORMA HUNTER AND	§	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
BRENDA JONES,	§	
	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
vs.	§	TRAVIS COUNTY
	§	
LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., AND	§	
SPIRO PEREYO	§	
	§	
Defendants.		419th JUDICIAL DISTRICT

#### DEFENDANT LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC.'S ORIGINAL ANSWER

COMES NOW, LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC. (incorrectly named and an improper party) ("Lowe's"), one of the defendants in the above-numbered and titled Cause, and file this its Original Answer, and in support thereof would respectfully show the Court as follows:

#### I. GENERAL DENIAL

Lowe's denies each and every, all and singular, material allegations contained within Plaintiffs' pleadings and any amendments or supplements thereto and demands strict proof thereof in accordance with the Texas Rules of Civil Procedure.

### II. SPECIFIC DENIAL

Subject to and without waiving its General Denial, and in the alternative, Defendant Lowe's Companies, Inc. (*incorrectly named and an improper party*) specifically denies, pursuant to Rule 93(4) of the TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, that it has any liability and/or interest in the incident that forms the basis of

Plaintiffs' lawsuit, denies that it is a proper party to this lawsuit, and hereby challenges this Court's jurisdiction over it.

### III. AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES & INFERRENTIAL REBUTTALS

Subject to and without waiving the foregoing General and Specific Denials,
Lowe's asserts the following additional affirmative defenses and inferential rebuttals:

Lowe's would show that the damages and injuries alleged in Plaintiffs' Original Petition were legally and proximately caused, in whole or in part, by the negligence of Plaintiffs and Lowe's is therefore entitled to have the jury apply the doctrine of proportionate responsibility or comparative negligence established by Section 33.001 et seq. of the Texas Civil Practice and Remedies Code, to reduce or bar any claim against Lowe's.

Lowe's would further show that any injuries, damages, or liabilities complained of by the Plaintiffs herein are the result, in whole or in part, of a pre-existing condition and disabilities, and are not the result of any act or omission on the part of Lowe's.

## IV. <u>JURY DEMAND</u>

In accordance with Rule 216 of the TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, Lowe's demands a trial by jury.

## V. <u>193.7 NOTICE</u>

Pursuant to Rule 193.7 of the TEXAS RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, Lowe's hereby gives actual notice to Plaintiffs that any and all documents produced by Plaintiffs

may be used against Plaintiffs at any pretrial proceeding or at the trial of this matter without the necessity of authenticating the documents.

WHEREFORE, PREMISES CONSIDERED, LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC. (incorrectly named and an improper party) prays that Plaintiffs take nothing by this suit, that Plaintiffs be required to pay Lowe's costs, and for such other and further relief, both general and special, at law and in equity, to which Lowe's may show themselves justly entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

#### MAYER LLP

4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 1980 Houston, Texas 77027 713.487.2000 / Fax 713.487.2019

By: <u>/s/ Kevin Riley</u>

Kevin P. Riley

State Bar No. 16929100

E-Mail: kriley@mayerllp.com

Dwayne I. Lewis II

State Bar No. 24097996

E-Mail: <u>dlewis@mayerllp.com</u>

ATTORNEYS FOR DEFENDANT LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC.

# **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

This is to certify that on the  $27^{\rm th}$  day of September 2021, a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been forwarded to all counsel of record as follows:

Mark B. Blackburn	⊠E-Mail
Blake C. Erskine, Jr.	□HAND DELIVERY
Jeffery K. Work  Erskine & Blackburn, P.L.L.C. 6618 Sitio del Rio Blvd., Bldg. C-101  Austin, Texas 78730  mblackburn@erskine-blackburn.com berskine@erskine-blackburn.com jwork@erskine-blackburn.com	□FACSIMILE □OVERNIGHT MAIL □REGULAR, FIRST CLASS MAIL □TEXAS E-FILE □CERTIFIED MAIL/RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED
ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFFS	
	/s/ Kevin P. Riley Kevin P. Riley

# EXHIBIT 3

(State Court Docket Sheet)

# **Case Information**

# Norma Hunter, Brenda Jones vs. Lowe's Companies, Inc., Spiro Pereyo

D-1-GN-21-003847











Location

Travis County - District Clerk

Civil - Injury or Damage



Case Type
Motor Vehicle Accident

Case Filed Date 8/10/2021

Judge

419th District Court ▼

# Parties 4

Туре	Name	Attorneys
Plaintiff	Norma Hunter ▼	Mark Blackburn ▼
Plaintiff	Brenda Jones ▼	Mark Blackburn ▼
Defendant	Lowe's Companies, Inc. ▼	
Defendant	Spiro Pereyo ▼	

# Events 4



Description

+ All — All

# Petition

Name

Plaintiffs' Original Petition

File Date 8/10/2021

Name	
Plaintiffs' Original Petition_	Jones &
Hunter pdf	

Plaintiffs' Original Petition\_Jones & Hunter.pdf

Security Description Pages Price

Does not contain 12 \$1.20

📜 Add

# No Fee Documents

8/12/2021

Pages

**Pages** 

1

2

File Date

Letter to Clerk re Updated Fees for Citations

Letter to Clerk re Updated Fees for Citations 081221\_Jones & Hunter.pdf Description

Letter to Clerk re Updated Fees for Citations 081221\_Jones & Hunter.pdf

Does not contain sensitive data

Security Description

Security Description

sensitive data

\$0.20

Price

📜 Add

# No Fee Documents

File Date 9/2/2021

Return of Service - Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Name Description

Lowe's Companies Inc. Return of Service.pdf Service.p

Lowe's Companies, Inc. Return of Service.pdf

Does not contain sensitive data

Price \$0.10

**≩** Add

# No Fee Documents

File Date 9/10/2021

9/2

Defendant Spiro Pereyo's Return of Service

Name	Description	Security Description	Pages	Price	
Defendant Spiro Pereyo Return of	Defendant Spiro Pereyo Return of	Does not contain	1	\$0.10	📜 Add
Service.pdf	Service.pdf	sensitive data			

 $\ensuremath{\texttt{@}}$  2021 Tyler Technologies, Inc. | All Rights Reserved

Version: 2021.8.0.61



Norma Hunter, Brenda Jones vs. Lowe's Companies, Inc., Spiro Pereyo

D-1-GN-21-003847











File Into

# EXHIBIT 4

(Counsel of Record and Information)

## IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS AUSTIN DIVISION

NORMA HUNTER AND	§	
BRENDA JONES,	§	
·	§	
Plaintiffs,	§	
	§	
v.	§	CIVIL CASE NO. 1:21-cv-00876
	§	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
LOWE'S COMPANIES, INC., AND	§	
SPIRO PEREYO	§	
	§	
Defendants.	<b>§</b>	

# COUNSEL OF RECORD AND INFORMATION PURSUANT TO 28 U.S.C. § 1446(A)

(1) A list of all parties in the case, their party type (e.g., plaintiff, defendant, intervenor, receiver, etc.) and current status of the removed case (pending, dismissed);

Plaintiffs Norma Hunter and Brenda Jones

Defendants Lowe's Companies, Inc. (incorrectly named and an improper party) and Spiro Pereyo

The removed case is currently pending.

(2) A civil cover sheet and a certified copy of the state court docket sheet; a copy of all pleadings that assert causes of action; all answers to such pleadings and a copy of all process and orders served upon the party removing the case to this court, as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1446(a);

See attached civil cover sheet and documents attached to Defendant's Notice of Removal as *Exhibit "B."* 

(3) A complete list of attorneys involved in the action being removed, including each attorney's bar number, address, telephone number and party or parties represented by him/her;

#### Counsel for Plaintiffs Norma Hunter and Brenda Jones

Mark B. Blackburn

State Bar No. 02388990

Email: mblackburn@erskine-blackburn.com

Black C. Erskine, Jr. State Bar No. 00786383

Email: berskine@erskine-blackburn.com

Jefferv K. Work

State Bar No. 21998700

Email: <a href="mailto:jwork@erskine-blackburn.com">jwork@erskine-blackburn.com</a> ERSKINE & BLACKBURN, P.L.L.C. 6618 Sitio de Rio Blvd., Bldg. C-101 Austin, Texas 78730

512.684.8900 / F: 512.684.8920

## Counsel for Defendant Lowe's Companies, Inc.

Kevin P. Riley

State Bar No. 16929100

E-Mail: kriley@mayerllp.com

Dwayne I. Lewis II

State Bar No. 24097996

E-Mail: dlewis@mayerllp.com

MAYER LLP

4400 Post Oak Parkway, Suite 1980

Houston, Texas 77027

713.487.2000 / F: 713.487.2019

- (4) A record of which parties have requested a trial by jury (this information is in addition to placing the word "jury" at the top of the Notice of Removal immediately below the case number); and
  - Defendant, Lowe's Companies, Inc. has requested a trial by jury.
- (5) The name and address of the court from which the case is being removed.

419<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Travis County Courthouse 1000 Guadalupe, Room 507 Austin, Texas 78701 512.854.4023